MARVEL
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AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
WOLVERINE
ALONE AGAINST THE BLACK SHADOW!
WONDER MAN
AND THE ENCHANTRESS!

# MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™

Cover by BOB LAYTON
TERRY KAVANAGH editor
KELLY CORVESE
assistant editor
TOM DeFALCO
editor in
chief

Stan Lee Presents:

## WOLVERINE "BLACK SHADOW, WHITE SHADOW" ..... 1

WRITER — Marv Wolfman
ART — John Buscema
LETTERER — Phil Felix
COLORIST — Nel Yomtov

"VILLAGE OF BLOOD" — PART 5 OF 10

Wolverine, Mai, Hsiao, and Ch'un leave Hong Kong by junk and sail north along the Chinese coast. The coastline is wondrous, filled with sights not seen elsewhere. To find food, Logan dives into the sea and slays a shark.

Pausing on their journey, Logan's mutant senses pick up anguished cries. He leaves his friends behind and makes his way through the thick forest where he sees wild horses charging directly at him.

## WONDER MAN "STARDUST MISERIES" ..... 9.

WRITER — Michael Higgins
PENCILER — Javier Saltares
INKER — José Marzan
LETTERER — Ken Lopez
COLORIST — Tom Vincent

"SHE BELONGS TO ME" — PART 5 OF 8

No one is certain what's become of WONDER MAN — but Janet Van Dyne isn't about to let that spoil her day!

Unfortunately, she isn't going to have any choice as her magic moment is interrupted by a sorcery most foul!

## UNION JACK ..... 17.

WRITER — Fabian Nicieza
ART — Kieron Dwyer
LETTERER — Diana Albers
COLORIST — Kieron Dwyer

"THE ESTABLISHMENT"

His name is Joseph Chapman and he has decided to carry on a long and noble tradition. He has assumed the mantle of Union Jack, defender of Great Britain during her time of greatest needs.

But exactly who is to determine what constitutes a need worth defending? It is a decision Joey Chapman will have to make very soon. All it may cost him is his personal beliefs . . .

## DAUGHTERS OF THE DRAGON ... 25

WRITER — Jo Duffy
PENCILER — Chris Tsuda
INKER — Dan Adkins
LETTERER — Lois Buhalis
COLORIST — Tom Vincent

"ARMED AND DANGEROUS"

Following the death of Iron Fist, Colleen Wing, Martial Arts and Samurai expert, and Misty Night, ex-cop with a bionic arm, re-formed The Nightwing Restorations Detective Agency. Now they are on their own and on the case!

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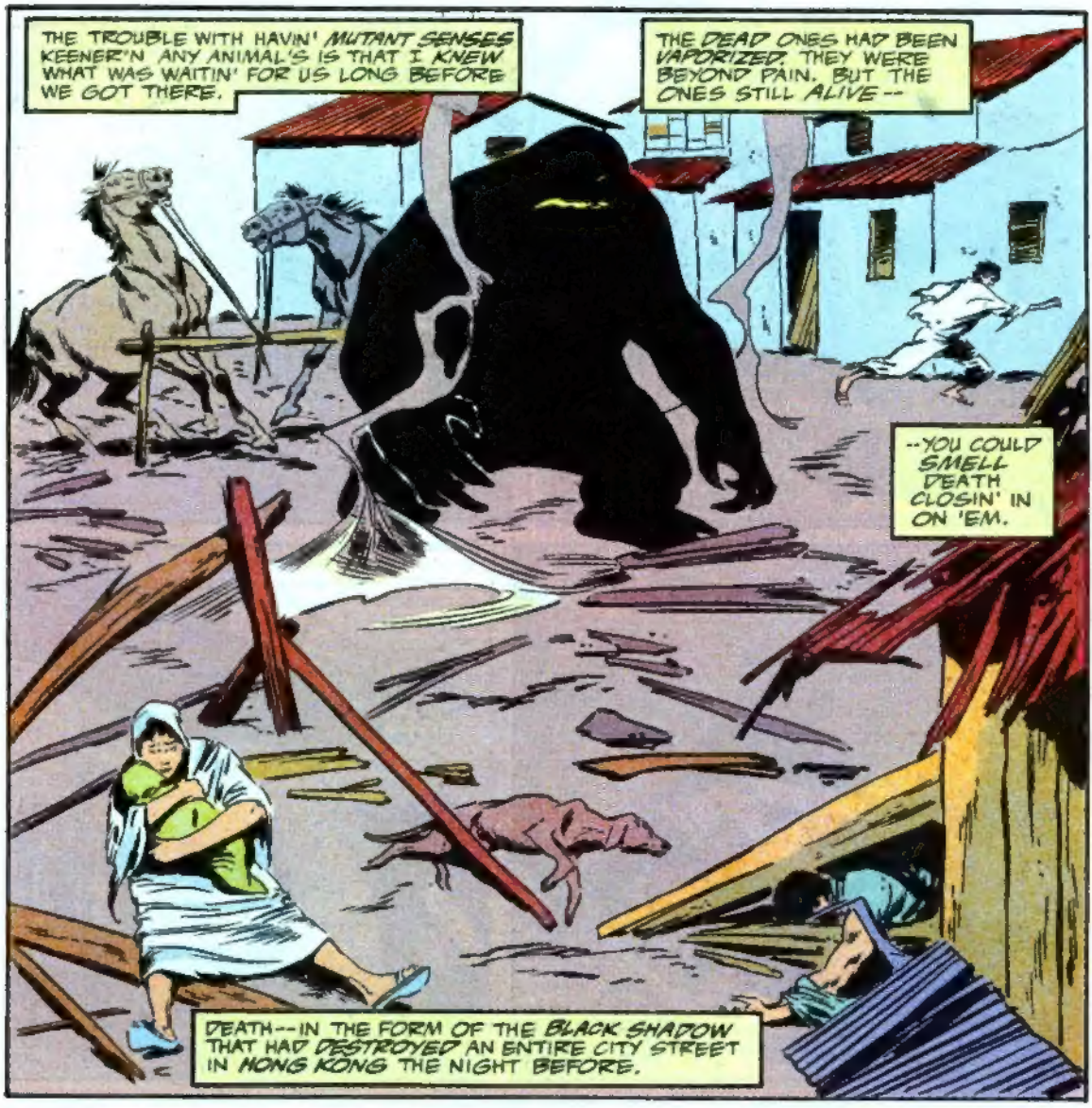
BLACK SHADOW!
WHITE SHADOW!
VILLAGE OF BLOOD!
CHAPTER FIVE
NOT JUST ANYBODY CAN GET TRAMPLED TO DEATH BY STAMPEDIN' HORSES SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE OF CHINA.
FEATURING:
WOLVERINE
RRRR RUMMBLE
GUESS I'M JUST ONE O' THE LUCKY ONES.

TRY RUNNIN' FROM A STAMPEDE AN' YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF LOOKING UP AT HOOVES THROUGH BLOOD-SOAKED EYES.
SO YOU DO WHAT'S NOT EXPECTED.
GO AT THE LEAD HORSE.
GRAB IT FROM UNDERNEATH ITS NECK AN' PRAY YOU CAN HOLD ON.
AND IF YOU HAPPEN TO BE A MUTANT, WITH SPECIAL STRENGTH AND AGILITY...
...MAYBE, JUST MAYBE, YOU CAN PULL IT OFF.
I'M TRYIN' TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO NEXT WHEN THE HORSES MAKE THAT DECISION FOR ME.
THEY HEAD DIRECTLY FOR MAI, CH'UN AN' HSIAO.
NOTHING ELSE TO DO BUT JERK THE HORSE LEFT FOR THE OTHERS TO FOLLOW.
I SWALLOW MY BREATH.
MAYBE I REALLY AM ONE O' THE LUCKY ONES AFTER ALL.

HORSES DON'T SPOOK 'LESS SOMETHIN' MAKES THEM.
PROBLEM IS TRYIN' TO FIGURE OUT WHAT.
THE ANSWER HAD TO BE IN THE DIRECTION THE HORSES CAME FROM.
I HAD A HUNCH BUT I KEPT HOPIN' I WAS WRONG.
I SAW WHAT YOU DID BUT I STILL CANNOT BELIEVE IT.
"PATCH", ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SORE ARM. IT'LL HEAL FAST. YOU OKAY?
YES, YES... BUT WHAT HAPPENED?
GONNA FIND OUT.
LAST NIGHT WE SAW THOSE COWBOYS HERDING HORSES.
COULD THEY--
PICKIN' UP THE SCENT OF BLOOD...
...AND DECAYIN' FLESH.
STAY HERE...
NO, "PATCH", THIS IS OUR FIGHT.
IF THERE IS DANGER, WE ARE COMING WITH YOU.
SUIT YOURSELF.
JUST STAY OUTTA MY WAY.


THE TROUBLE WITH HAVIN' MUTANT SENSES KEENER'N ANY ANIMAL'S IS THAT I KNEW WHAT WAS WAITIN' FOR US LONG BEFORE WE GOT THERE.
THE DEAD ONES HAD BEEN VAPORIZED. THEY WERE BEYOND PAIN. BUT THE ONES STILL ALIVE --
--YOU COULD SMELL DEATH CLOSIN' IN ON 'EM.
DEATH--IN THE FORM OF THE BLACK SHADOW THAT HAD DESTROYED AN ENTIRE CITY STREET IN HONG KONG THE NIGHT BEFORE.

I-I CAN-NOT LOOK, "PATCH." IT IS AWFUL.
WHEN I BELIEVE THERE IS NOTHING LEFT THAT BLACK SHADOW CAN DO--
--HE THEN DESTROYS MORE AND MORE.
TILL NOW.
WE'RE GOING TO STOP HIM.

HSIAO AND CH'UN WERE IN SHOCK. NEITHER WOULD BE OF HELP.
BETTER FOR THEM THAT WAY.

PATCH-- STOP HIM!
FOR PITY'S SAKE-- DO SOMETHING!
LOOK, LOOK! HE'S COMING AT US NOW!
HE WANTS TO DESTROY US-- THE SAME WAY HE DID MY VILLAGE!
SKRASH
THE SAME WAY HE'S DESTROYED EVERYTHING THAT MATTERED TO ME!
SHUT UP AND GET BACK.
SCREAMIN'S NOT GOIN' TO SAVE YOU!
I DON'T INTEND TO JUST SCREAM!
THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO DESTROY THAT THING, PATCH!
I HAVE THE GRENADES I STORED ON THE BOAT...
DON'T BE CRAZY, MAN.
WE'LL FIGURE OUT SOME-THIN'.
BY THEN HOW MANY MORE WILL DIE?
I DO NOT MIND SACRIFICING MYSELF!

NOT WHEN I WILL HAVE THE SATISFACTION OF KILLING IT!
HSIAO-- DON'T!
LET ME GO! I HAVE TO STOP HIM!
NO, MAI-- NO!
IF THE FOOL WANTS T' KILL HIM-SELF--
"--THERE'S NOTHIN' WE CAN DO TO STOP 'IM!"
SKRBLAMMOOOO!

H-HOW COULD YOU LET HIM DIE LIKE THAT?
THERE'S A LOOK IN SOME PEOPLE'S EYES THAT SAYS THEY'RE ALREADY DEAD.
LEARNED A LONG TIME AGO YOU DON'T FOLLOW THEM.
COMPANY'S COMING.
THE WHITE SHADOW.
WANTS US OUT OF HERE.
I AGREE.
WE CAN'T GO. WE CAN'T.
IT-IT KILLED HSIAO. WE CAN'T LEAVE IT.
WE'VE GOT TO DESTROY IT.
NOT HERE. NOT NOW.
WE HAD A PLAN...
...LET'S GO BACK TO IT.
IT'S WRONG... WE SHOULDN'T.
YOU DON'T FIGHT BATTLES YOU CAN'T WIN!
CH'UN--GET MOVING! BACK TO THE JUNK!

THEY'RE GONE.
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT. NO BUILDINGS, NO PEOPLE-- NOTHING.
WE'RE HERE.
BLACK SHADOW MADE A BAD MISTAKE LEAVING US ALIVE.
C'MON--
--LET'S MAKE SURE IT LIVES TO REGRET IT.
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE: HAVEN!

WONDER MAN
1M
SHE BELONGS TO ME
LOADING DOCK 14-B
LOOKS LIKE LAWRENCE WELK'S GOT HIM, IRON MAN!
Stardust Miscries
PART 5
CAN'T YOU EVER BE SERIOUS, BEAST?! ONE OF OUR TEAM MEMBERS--WONDER MAN--HAS JUST DISAPPEARED BEFORE OUR VERY EYES!
I CAN SEE THAT--OR IS IT CAN'T SEE THAT--
--BUT THAT'S NO REASON I CAN'T STILL BE CHARMING, IS IT?

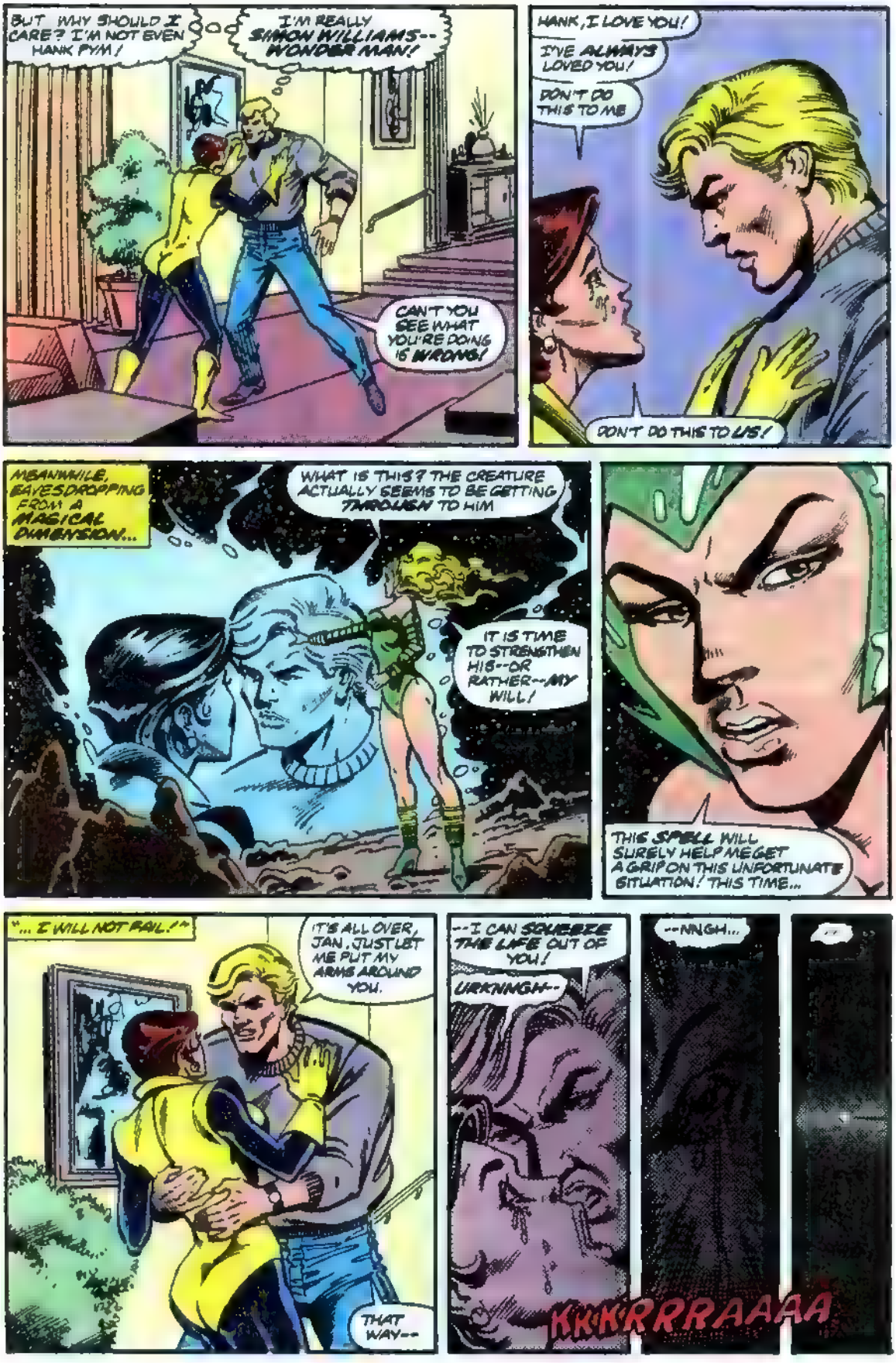
SORRY TO SNAP GUESS WE'VE ALL TAKEN THINGS LESS SERIOUSLY THAN WE SHOULD HAVE AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER.
NO PROBLEM. I'LL TRY TO KEEP A LEASH ON IT.
THE BIG QUESTION IS--WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
HANK PYM IS STILL IN THE COMPLEX. LET'S FIND HIM AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE PUT OUR HEADS TOGETHER
I THINK I SAW THAT ONE ON THE THREE STOOGES.. OOPS! MAYBE A MUZZLE WOULD WORK BETTER
AT THAT SAME MOMENT, IN BEVERLY HILLS..
TRULY, EVEN A GODDESS COULD QUICKLY ADJUST TO THIS LIFE OF LUXURY..
AS LONG AS I HAVE YOU HERE BY MY SIDE, WONDER MAN!
WHA--? ENCHANTRESS!
HOW'D I GET HERE?
MY, MY, MUSCLE-BOUND. SURELY YOU'VE GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO MY SPECIAL ATTRIBUTES BY NOW
JUST KEEPING AN EYE ON MY MAN TOO BAD YOU HADN'T KILLED THAT HORRIBLE IRON MAN BEFORE HIS BEASTLY FRIEND COULD FOUL OUR PLANS
I KNEW I HAD TO GET YOU BACK BEFORE THEY COULD USE THEIR EVIL, DEVIOUS TRICKS ON YOU AS THEY HAVE IN THE PAST.
THIS CALLS FOR A SLIGHT CHANGE IN PLANS...
... AND, HANDSOME THOUGH YOU MAY BE...
...A SLIGHT CHANGE IN YOUR APPEARANCE.
THERE, THAT OUGHT TO DO IT!

SOME TIME LATER...
AH, MS. HAN DYNE, I KNOW JUST WHAT YOU WANT
BUT, MAY I ASK WHY YOU WANTED SUCH AN EARLY APPOINTMENT THIS TIME?
WELL, PIERRE, TODAY IS SOMETHING SPECIAL— THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAY I WAS FIRST MARRIED.
A GIRL HAS TO LOOK HER BEST...
"...AND SHE HAS TO HAVE TIME TO SHOP FOR SOME NEW CLOTHES!"
YOU LOOK SIMPLY SMASHING, MS HAN DYNE
YES... BUT WHAT ABOUT THE DRESS?
JUST KIDDING. MY EGO HASN'T GOTTEN THAT BIG
SOON...
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE PACKAGES MYSELF
I JUST CAN'T WAIT TO TRY EVERYTHING ON...AGAIN!
EVERYTHING HAS GOT TO BE JUST RIGHT TONIGHT!
GEE, IT'S TIMES LIKE THIS I WISH I HAD HANK'S ABILITIES! I COULD HAVE CARRIED ALL THESE PACKAGES UP HERE IN MY PURSE!
I'M SO EXCITED, I FEEL JUST LIKE A SCHOOLGIRL!
I--
WHAT?!

HENRY PIM! WHAT ARE YOU DO NG HERE?
I WAS EXPECTING--
I HADN T PLANNED--
HEY TAKE IT EASY JAN
WHAT S GOTTEN INTO YOU?
THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE--
HEY BABE, WHY AMOCK IT? WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
YOU GOT MORE THAN YOU BARGAINED FOR!
LET'S JUST--
FORGET IT! FORGET EVERYTHING!
I DON T WANT ANYTHING FROM YOJ!

SLAM
BAM BAM
BETTER WATCH MY STRENGTH. WOULDN'T WANT TO BREAK THE DOOR!
OH, HANK! WHY IS IT THAT EVERY TIME THINGS SEEM TO BE GOING SO WELL SOMETHING STRANGE HAS TO HAPPEN?
OPEN UP! I'M WARNING YOU!
I'M--
HMMM.
I'M SORRY. I JUST COULDN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU AGAIN. TOO MANY THINGS HAVE COME BETWEEN US IN THE PAST OUR LIVES ARE JUST TOO... TOO HECTIC.
HOW CAN I LOCK HIM OUT... WHEN HE NEEDS ME?
HANK, DEAR... WHY DON'T WE JUST TAKE A TRIP SOMEWHERE? GET AWAY FROM IT ALL...
OH, WE'LL BE GOING SOMEWHERE ALL RIGHT, YOU WITCH!
HANK, PLEASE!
BAM

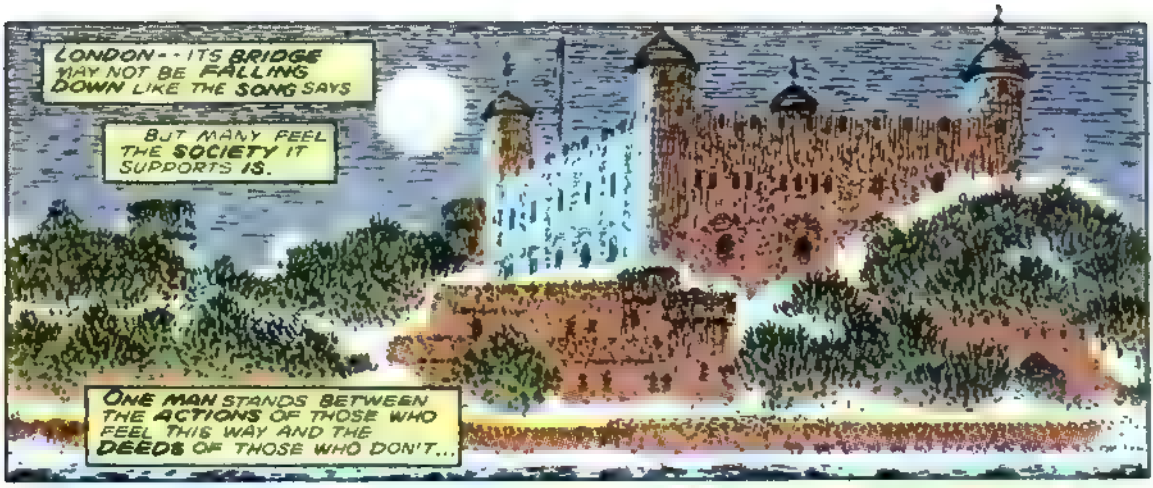
I HATE TO DO THIS! I HATE TO DO THIS!
ZZZPPT
BUT, WHAT OTHER CHOICE DID HE LEAVE ME?
I--I CAN'T JUST DESERT HIM HE NEEDS ME NOW! WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP HIM?
WHAT CAN I DO TO BRING HIM TO HIS SENSES?
WHAT CAN I DO?
GOT TO LET HER THINK SHE HURT ME--AT LEAST TILL I GET CLOSER!
JAN--
MUNH! I THOUGHT THAT BLAST WOULD HOLD HIM FOR LONGER.
JAN, CAN WE TALK?
MAYBE THAT BLAST WAS ALL THAT HE NEEDED.
HANK? BOB! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
IT'S WORKING...
...BUT...SUDDENLY... I FEEL SO STRANGE
I-I DON'T LIKE [illegible] LIKE THIS
HEAD FEELS SO FUZZY.
CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT WHAT AM I DOING?
WHAT AM I DOING?


BUT WHY SHOULD I CARE? I'M NOT EVEN HANK PYM!
I'M REALLY SIMON WILLIAMS--WONDER MAN!
CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS WRONG!
HANK, I LOVE YOU!
I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU!
DON'T DO THIS TO ME
DON'T DO THIS TO US!
MEANWHILE, EAVESDROPPING FROM A MAGICAL DIMENSION...
WHAT IS THIS? THE CREATURE ACTUALLY SEEMS TO BE GETTING THROUGH TO HIM
IT IS TIME TO STRENGTHEN HIS--OR RATHER--MY WILL!
THIS SPELL WILL SURELY HELP ME GET A GRIP ON THIS UNFORTUNATE SITUATION! THIS TIME...
"... I WILL NOT FAIL!"
IT'S ALL OVER, JAN, JUST LET ME PUT MY ARMS AROUND YOU.
THAT WAY--
--I CAN SQUEEZE THE LIFE OUT OF YOU!
URKNNGH--
--NNGH...
KKKRRRAAAA

WHA?
WHERE..?
THE AMAZON RAINFOREST! I'M SURE YOU'LL JUST ADORE WHAT WE'VE DONE WITH BARON ZEMO'S OLD BASE OF OPERATIONS
OH, MY--!
SIMON! THANK HEAVENS YOU'RE HERE!
I'M AFRAID HE'LL BE OF NO USE TO YOU, WASP!
WE ARE NOT CONCERNED WITH YOUR UNFORTUNATE SITUATION MY LITTLE PRETTY!
IN FACT, YOU ARE OF NO CONCERN TO US AT ALL!
WE'VE ONLY KEPT YOU ALIVE AS BAIT!
THROUGH YOU, WE WILL DRAW THE REST OF THE ACCURSED AVENGERS TO THEIR DEATHS!



CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE


LONDON--ITS BRIDGE MAY NOT BE FALLING DOWN LIKE THE SONG SAYS
BUT MANY FEEL THE SOCIETY IT SUPPORTS IS.
ONE MAN STANDS BETWEEN THE ACTIONS OF THOSE WHO FEEL THIS WAY AND THE DEEDS OF THOSE WHO DON'T...

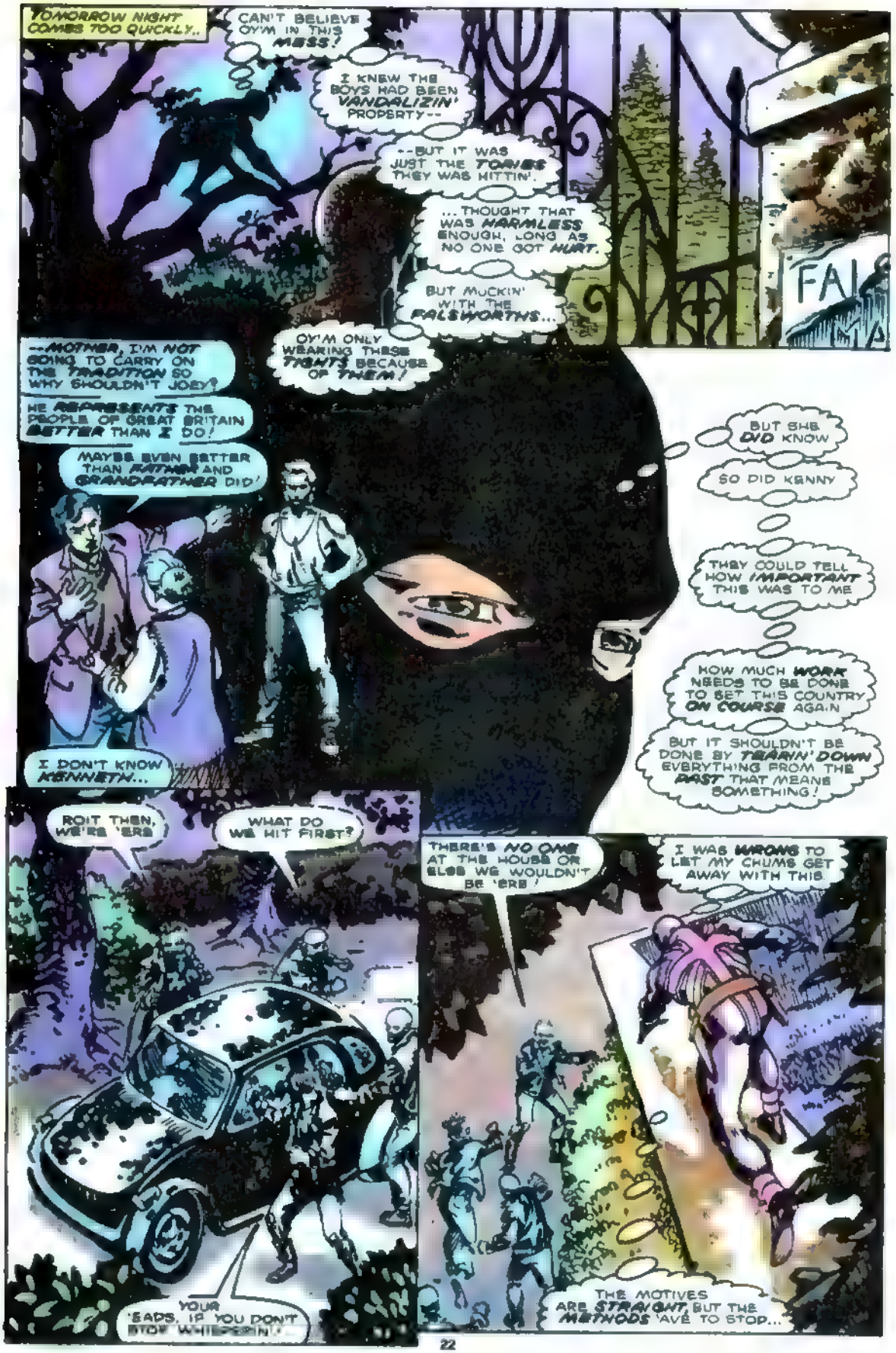
UNION JACK
HUH-- WHA--?
AWROIT, THEN!
JUST IN TIME TO HELP US WITH THESE HOOLIGANS!
THE ESTABLISHMENT

'AY!
OOoooFF!
PHUD
WUMP
RUN, AN' I WANTA 'EAR YOOR LUNGS SUCKIN' AIR
YOU CAN'T JUST--
BIG BLOKE
I... SAID GO
JEEZ.
TOL' YA 'E'S ALROIT.
UNION JACK'S ON OUR SIDE!
'AV--GET BACK 'ERE!
GIVE T A REST, BOYS
OUTTPP!
LOOK OUT, NOW!
MAKE LIKE A STATUE.
YOU WOULDN'T

YOOR ROIT, I WOULDN'T...
...BUT IT GOT YOU TO STOP.
D'YOU KNOW WHAT YOU JUST DID?
THOSE ARE THE BLOKES WHO'VE BEEN VANDALIZING OUR CITY'S LANDMARKS!
WE COULD ARREST YOU F'R OBSTRUCTIN' JUSTICE, WE CAN!
THE PEOPLE OF GREAT BRITAIN SHOULD RESERVE THE ROIT TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS...
...ESPECIALLY IF THEY DON'T AGREE WITH THE BLOODY QUEEN'S UPPER CLASS SNOBBERY!
'EY NOW-- GET BACK 'ERE!
CAP'N BRITAIN WOULDN'T SAY SUCH THINGS!
HE'S A POLITICAL POOF!
THERE ARE LAWS IN THIS LAND, Y'KNOW!
IT'S WHAT MAKES US WHAT WE ARE TODAY, THEN!
I KNOW.
AN' UNION JACK IS A PART OF THAT, ALROIT--
"--FROM THE DAYS OF WORLD WAR I, TA FIGHTING ALONGSIDE THE INVADERS DURING WORLD WAR II--
"--ALL THE WAY UP TO A YEAR AGO WHEN CAPTAIN AMERICA DID AWAY WITH BARON BLOOD!..."
CAPTAIN AMERICA #254--TIME TUNNEL TERRY.

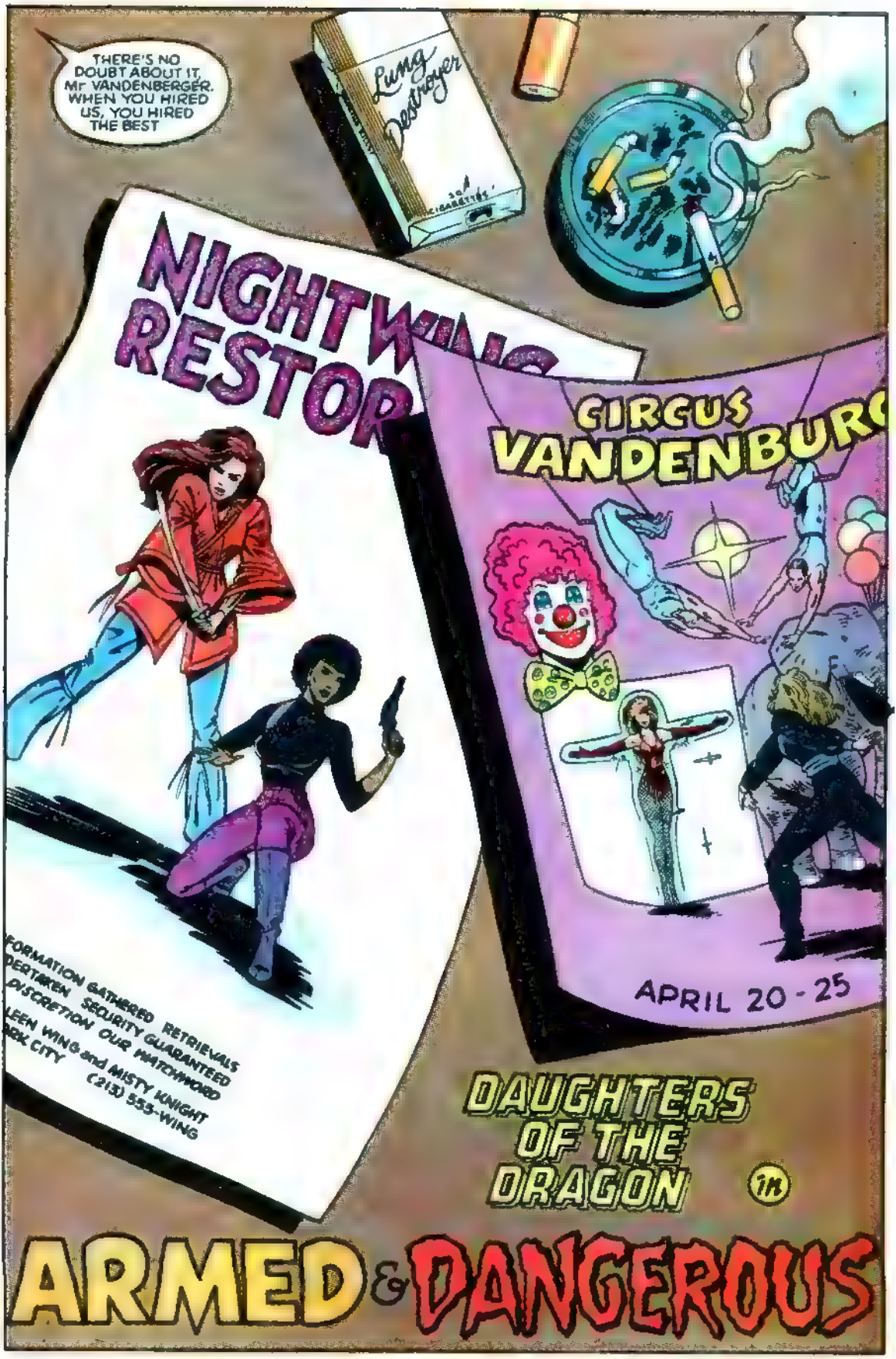
"THA'S WHEN LORD FALSWORTH--THE ORIGINAL UNION JACK--PASSED AWAY..."
.. THA'S WHEN THE MANTLE OF UNION JACK PASSED ON TA JOEY CHAPMAN.
IT HASN'T BEEN EASY FIR ME
HAVE TA STOP KNOCKIN' 'EADS WITH THE CONSTABLES
'S GONNA LAND ME IN THE NICK FIR SHOOR
BUT MOST OF THE TOIME I AGREE WITH THE VERY PEOPLE THE AUTHORITIES ARE TRYIN' TO STOP!
HOW CAN I WEAR THE FLAG WITHOUT REPRESENTIN' THE PEOPLE OF GREAT BRITAIN?
AN' HOW CAN I REPRESENT THE PEOPLE WITHOUT OPPOSIN' ALL OF THE THINGS I DESPISE ABOUT THE THATCHER GOVERNMENT?!
AN' HOW COME THERE'S NEVER A PINT OF SPECIAL AROUND WHEN I NEED ONE?
BOONKA
BOONKA
BOONKA
IT DON' OPEN 'LESS I TURN THE KNOB, SO RELAX A MO'!
BOONKA
BOONKA
BOONKA
BLOODY ENTHUSIASTIC VISITOR!
LIKELY T'GIVE THEM A CORONARY IF THEY SEE ME IN SPANDEX!
I'M 'ERE-- I'M 'ERE!

OPEN UP, 'EY!
TERRORIZIN' THE QUEEN'S LAND S THIRSTY WORK!
?
YOU'D THINK YOU HAD SOMETH'N T'HIDE, JOEY!
WOT YOU 'IDIN' CHAPMAN?
UHM A SECRET IDENTITY?
HAWR!
THAT'S A GOOD ONE, CHAPMAN!
YOU SHOULDA' SEEN US TONIGHT, MATE!
DELBERT AN' BRUCE AN' RICH AN' ME WAS BLOOMIN' RADICALS!
TH NGS WENT WELL, I TAKE IT, NIGEL?
BETTER THAN WELL, CHAPS..
WE GOT OUR SLATES CLEANED BY UNION JACK 'IMSELF!
QUEEN?
'E WAS ON OUR SIDE, JOEY!
'E S ONE OF US!
AN' TO SHOW OUR APPRECIATION, TOMORROW NIGHT
WE HIT FALSWORTH MANOR!

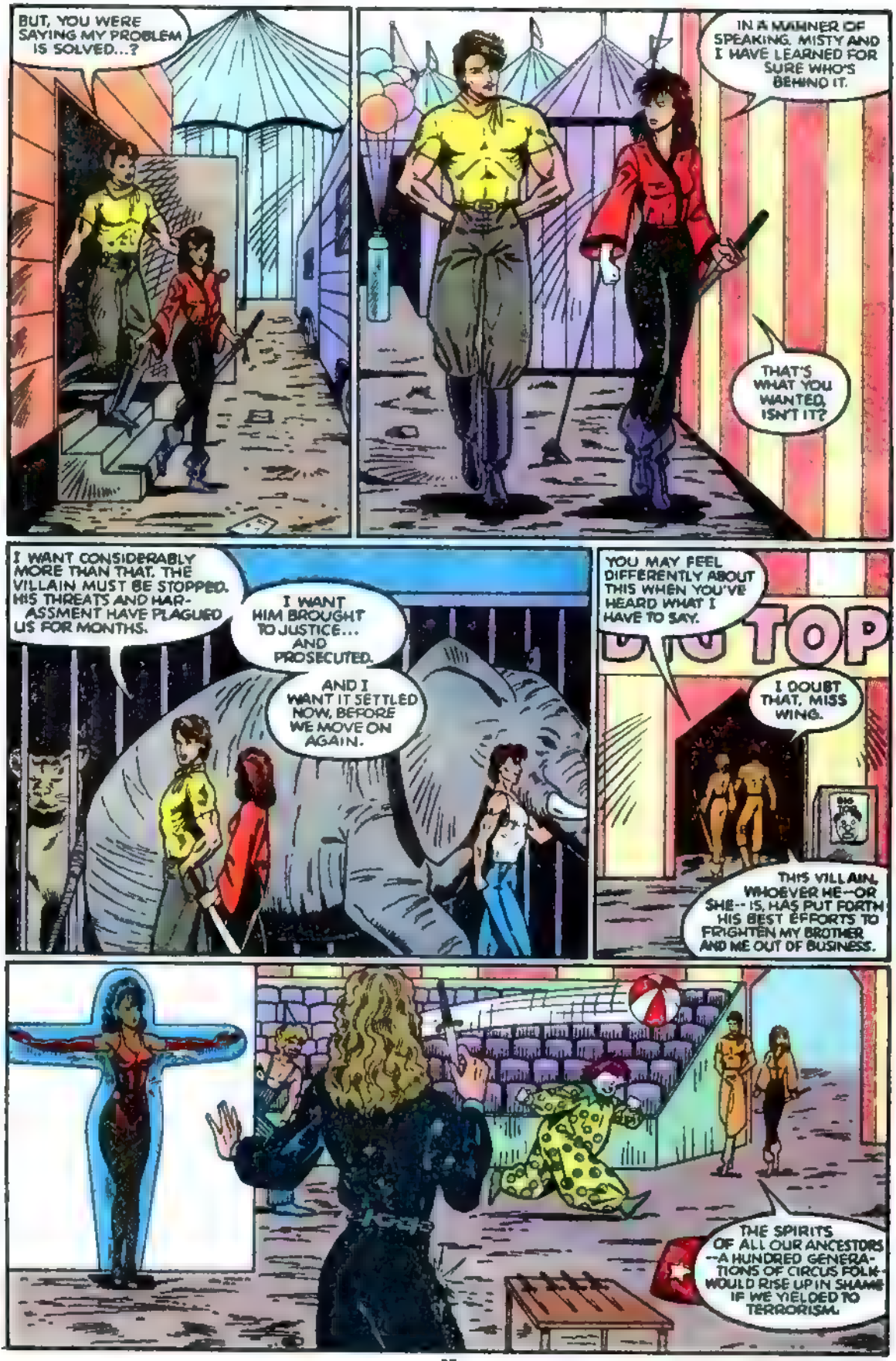

TOMORROW NIGHT COMES TOO QUICKLY..
CAN'T BELIEVE OY'M IN THIS MESS!
I KNEW THE BOYS HAD BEEN VANDALIZIN' PROPERTY--
--BUT IT WAS JUST THE TOMBS THEY WAS HITTIN'.
... THOUGHT THAT WAS HARMLESS ENOUGH, LONG AS NO ONE GOT HURT.
BUT MUCKIN' WITH THE FALSWORTHS...
OY'M ONLY WEARING THESE TIGHTS BECAUSE OF THEM!
--MOTHER, I'M NOT GOING TO CARRY ON THE TRADITION SO WHY SHOULDN'T JOEY?
HE REPRESENTS THE PEOPLE OF GREAT BRITAIN BETTER THAN I DO!
MAYBE EVEN BETTER THAN FATHER AND GRANDFATHER DID!
I DON'T KNOW KENNETH...
BUT SHE DID KNOW
SO DID KENNY
THEY COULD TELL HOW IMPORTANT THIS WAS TO ME
HOW MUCH WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE TO SET THIS COUNTRY ON COURSE AGAIN
BUT IT SHOULDN'T BE DONE BY TEARIN' DOWN EVERYTHING FROM THE PAST THAT MEANS SOMETHING!
ROIT THEN, WE'RE 'ERE
WHAT DO WE HIT FIRST?
YOUR 'EADS, IF YOU DON'T STOP WHISPERIN'...
THERE'S NO ONE AT THE HOUSE OR ELSE WE WOULDN'T BE 'ERE!
I WAS WRONG TO LET MY CHUMS GET AWAY WITH THIS
THE MOTIVES ARE STRAIGHT, BUT THE METHODS 'AVE TO STOP...

COMMON THEN, GIVE IT A LITTLE EXTRA SHOVE?
PUT ON A LITTLE.
HURF
WEIGHT, NIGEL?
'ERE WE--
--GO?
'ALLO, U.J.--
--'ERE TO HELP US, ROIT?
WRONG.
LOOK OUT!
'EY!
WOT'S THE SCORE WITH YOU?
YOOR NOT TOUCHIN' FALSWORTH MANOR
SAYS YOU!
YOU 'EAR, BUT YOU DON'T LISTEN.
POOT
PUMPH
I THOUGHT YOU WAS ONE O' US!
I AM ONE OF YOU..
.. BUT OY M ALSO ONE O' THEM.
LET ME SHOW YOU WOT I MEAN
THERE.

THE FINAL RESTING PLACE OF THE MEN WHO WORE THIS COSTUME BEFORE ME
LORD MONTGOMERY FALSWORTH
"HER MAJESTY'S LAST HOPE"
BRIAN FALSWORTH
A HERO OF THE PEOPLE
YOU WEARIN' TIGHTS FROM TWO DEAD QUEENIE'S!
PRETTY SMARMY.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU?
WOT YOU'RE FOITIN' FOR IS RYT AN' TRUE--
--AN YOU SHOULD FO:T FOR YOUR STAKE IN LOIFE--
--BUT YOU CAN'T DO IT BY HURTIN' THE PAST..
. COS' THEN YOU'RE ALSO HURTIN' THE PEOPLE WHO FOUGHT FOR THEIRS
IF OY'M GONNA REPRESENT ANYTHIN', IT'S GOT TO BE THE FOITING SPIRIT THAT SAVED THIS COUNTRY THROUGH ALL ITS TROUBLES.
THINK ABOUT IT, MATES, NEXT TOIME YOU GOT SPRAY PAINT IN YOOR HANDS AND ANGER IN YOOR 'EARTS.
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'LL HELP THEM.
...BUT I TRIED.
I HOPE IT'S WHAT YOU BOTH WOULD'VE DONE
I GOT DIFF'RENT VIEWS THAN BOTH O'YOU DID...
...AN' I GOT A DIFF'RENT WAY ABOUT ME..
.. BUT THE SPIRIT IS THE SAME, MATES
I 'OPE IT SERVES THE COUNTRY AS WELL AS YOU DID.
OY'M JUST LEARNIN' THAT NOW.
WISH ME LUCK, THEN..
THE BEGINNING...


THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, MR VANDENBERGER. WHEN YOU HIRED US, YOU HIRED THE BEST
Lung Destroyer
NIGHTW
RESTOR
CIRCUS
VANDENBURG
APRIL 20 - 25
FORMATION GATHERED RETRIEVALS
DERTAKEN SECURITY GUARANTEED
DISCRETION OUR MATCHWORD
LEEN WING and MISTY KNIGHT
BOX CITY
(213) 555-WING
DAUGHTERS OF THE DRAGON
IN
ARMED & DANGEROUS

CIRCUS
IN FACT, YOUR PROBLEM IS ALL BUT SOLVED.
I HOPE SO, MISS WING.
I WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE CLAIMS YOU AND MISS KNIGHT MADE IN YOUR HANDBILL.
DON'T TAKE THAT SO SERIOUSLY. I'M AFRAID IT WAS THE WORK OF OUR BUSINESS MANAGER...
...A MAN OF GRANDIOSE NOTIONS AND INORDINATE FAITH IN THE POWER OF PROPER MARKETING.
I HOPE YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TELL AN OLD CIRCUS MAN THAT YOU SHARE THE CONTEMPT OF THE COMMON HERD FOR SHOWMANSHIP...?
HARDLY. BUT WHILE RAZZLE-DAZZLE HAS ITS PLACE, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THAT ONE MEASURES UP...
...IN PERFORMANCE
SHALL WE STEP OUTSIDE?
CERTAINLY. AND THANK YOU FOR THE TEA.
CIRCUS


BUT, YOU WERE SAYING MY PROBLEM IS SOLVED...?
IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING. MISTY AND I HAVE LEARNED FOR SURE WHO'S BEHIND IT.
THAT'S WHAT YOU WANTED, ISN'T IT?
I WANT CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN THAT. THE VILLAIN MUST BE STOPPED. HIS THREATS AND HARASSMENT HAVE PLAGUED US FOR MONTHS.
I WANT HIM BROUGHT TO JUSTICE... AND PROSECUTED.
AND I WANT IT SETTLED NOW, BEFORE WE MOVE ON AGAIN.
YOU MAY FEEL DIFFERENTLY ABOUT THIS WHEN YOU'VE HEARD WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.
I DOUBT THAT, MISS WING.
THIS VILLAIN, WHOEVER HE--OR SHE-- IS, HAS PUT FORTH HIS BEST EFFORTS TO FRIGHTEN MY BROTHER AND ME OUT OF BUSINESS.
THE SPIRITS OF ALL OUR ANCESTORS --A HUNDRED GENERATIONS OF CIRCUS FOLK-- WOULD RISE UP IN SHAME IF WE YIELDED TO TERRORISM.

THUNK
IT WAS BAD ENOUGH WHEN IT WAS LIMITED TO MERE PROPERTY DAMAGE--ANIMALS FREED, PROPS DESTROYED, A FIRE SET DURING ONE OF OUR PERFORMANCES--
--BUT, WHEN RUDY ALMOST CAUGHT THE CRIMINAL LAST MONTH...WHEN THE MAN WOUNDED HIM WITH ONE OF HIS OWN KNIVES.
...I KNEW THAT THINGS HAD GONE TOO FAR
IT WAS VERY... ENTERPRISING OF YOUR BROTHER TO TACKLE SOMEONE HE COULDN'T EVEN SEE CLEARLY.
"WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF RUDY'D BEEN KILLED?"
"IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A TRAGEDY...AN IRREDEEMABLE LOSS... BOTH TO THE CIRCUS... AND TO ME PERSONALLY."
IF ANYTHING HAD HAPPENED TO RUDY.. WOULD HIS HALF OF THE CIRCUS HAVE COME TO YOU? ARE YOU HIS HEIR?
JUST AS HE IS MINE.
BUT WHAT AM I TO INFER FROM THESE QUESTIONS? THAT YOU SUSPECT ME OF HAVING SOMETHING TO DO WITH ALL THIS?
IN A WAY...BUT NOT THE WAY YOU THINK I MEAN.
YOU'VE TOLD ME WHAT I NEEDED TO KNOW. TOGETHER WITH THE EVIDENCE MISTY HAS COLLECTED, IT GIVES ME THE WHOLE PICTURE. IT'S NOT A PRETTY ONE

"Ah, YES . . MISS KNIGHT BUT HAVEN'T YOU BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT HER BEING UNDERCOVER HERE, WITH ONLY YOU AND I AWARE OF HER TRUE IDENTITY
". . WITHOUT SUFFICIENT PRIVACY IN HER QUARTERS--OR THE SPACE IN HER COSTUME -- TO ALLOW HER THE PROTECTION OF CARRYING A CONCEALED WEAPON?"
NOPE. EVEN IN THAT GETUP RUDY INSISTS ON HER WEARING, SHE'S ALWAYS GOT A TRICK OR TWO UP HER SLEEVE.
LOOK...THERE'S NO EASY WAY TO SAY THIS...
...BUT RUDY IS BEHIND WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING HERE. A FEW OF YOUR OTHER EMPLOYEES ARE IN IT WITH HIM.
HE WOUNDED HIS OWN ARM -- SUPERFICIALLY -- TO ALLAY SUSPICION LATER--
. WHEN YOU WERE KILLED.
RUDY PLANNED TO MAKE A FEW TEARFUL SPEECHES ABOUT HIS DUTY TO THE MEMORY OF YOUR INDOMITABLE SPIRIT IN THE FACE OF THREATS AND DANGER...
...AND THEN CARRY ON AS SOLE PROPRIETOR OF THE CIRCUS VANDENBERGER.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, BOBO?

SACRE BLEU!
THEY'RE ON TO US, RUDY! RUN FOR IT!
SO... THE TIME FOR PRETENSE IS PAST.
GET DOWN!
CHING
GIVE IT UP, RUDY!
YOU'RE BUSTED COLD!

AND THAT IS YOUR DOING. BUT I WONDER HOW "BUSTED" I WILL BE...
...IF YOU ARE NOT ALIVE TO TESTIFY!
THANK YOU. I WANTED AN EXCUSE.
RUDY... MY BROTHER... MY OWN BROTHER. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
THAT ROTTEN KID...
HEY, BOBO...

...WHERE D'YA THINK YOU'RE GOING?!
=ACK=
NOT TOO SHABBY, COLLEEN.
BUT, I'LL BET YOU CAN'T DO...
...THIS!
SWOOSH
AIN'T BIONICS GRAND?
RUDY, HOW COULD YOU?
STAY DOWN, OR I'LL SHOW YOU A TRICK WITH A BLADE THAT YOU WON'T LIKE AT ALL.
YOU OKAY?
NOTHING A LITTLE PATCH OF PLASTIC WON'T CURE. SAY, THIS SUIT DOESN'T HAVE ANY POCKETS IN IT.
YOU WANNA BUY ME SOME POPCORN?
FIN.

# MARVEL® READERS PRESENT

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP – 387 Park Avenue South – New York New York – 10016

**Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!**

Dear Marvel,

Re: MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #33—

1) Excalibur—This is turning out to be another outstanding lead feature. Since the main villain is obviously Arcade, I guess that means he's probably going to be Excalibur's own arch-villain. Of course I'm also basing this on his appearances in Excalibur's own mag. I guess the thing that surprises me most is that you chose to spotlight the whole group rather than just one of the members. I say this because any one individual in Excalibur (with the possible exception of Meggan) is perfectly capable of holding the lead feature for eight issues or so. Another reason, of course, is that Excalibur has already gotten their own book. There are a few other groups I would like to see and who could use the exposure in MCP. How about Freedom Force, the Inhumans or the Rangers (speaking of which, Red Wolf deserves a bigger story than the one-parter he's received so far in these pages)? Yes, the Excalibur story is turning out nicely. I only hope Wolverine doesn't pop up in the last couple of chapters.

2) Black Panther—As this storyline is nearing its conclusion, you can sense T'Challa is going to be in for quite a shock. I found this installment amusing until the last panel. I hope Zanti survives this. After having one of the best strips in MCP and appearing in it more than anyone else, you would think the Black Panther would rate at least one cover for himself. But I guess this isn't going to happen. I don't know if you have any other twenty-five-parters planned, or if this is some sort of experiment, but this reader would like to see more. I could probably think of a dozen (or more) characters that I would like to see in this type of storyline, but I'll just mention the most logical ones: Dr. Doom, Hercules, Human Torch, Magneto, Ka-Zar, Ant-Man, USAgent, and Henry Pym (I think it's time he got rid of those coveralls and adopted a new costume and code-name). I would also like to mention Sandman, which I call my favorite long shot for this type of series.

3) Coldblood—Good story. He does seem very similar to Deathlok, who I admit I don't know too much about. I think I've only read a couple of his appearances, and I don't remember them too well.

4) Sub-Mariner—Well, nice art anyway. I think eight pages is usually too short in itself, let alone six. How about next time another feature takes a couple of more pages, why don't you run some pinups or something?

All in all, another fine issue of MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS.

William Blevins
135 Spencer
Ferndale, MI 48220

**Thanks, William, you wrote a fine letter too. You sure did make a lot of requests, though. We'll see what we can do. Guess you weren't too thrilled with the Sub-Mariner story but read on for a different opinion . . .**

Dear Terry,

I am not a regular reader of MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS. Indeed, I bought issue #33 because it features the work of Erik Larsen, a favorite artist of mine, on Captain Britain, a character I have always had a soft spot for. However, the highlight of the issue, indeed, the entire month's comics, in my opinion, was the Sub-Mariner story by Don McGregor, Jim Lee, and Chris Ivy.

It's strange that a story that contains no words can hold a stronger message than most comics with their long winded explanations of things. The plight of the young bird brought a lump to my throat, and it's difficult for me to find the words necessary to describe how I felt when I turned to the last page. Sometimes, all that can be said is "Thank You." It is not enough, but it must suffice.

Rol Hirst

Rushgrove Farm, Holt Head, Slaithwaite
Huddersfield, W. Yorks, HD7 5TY England

**It *is* enough, Rol . . .**

Dear Terry,

In general, I'm against people or groups with their own books appearing in this book. But the latest Excalibur story, as strange as it is, gives us a chance to see our group members on their own. The story is strange—really strange—but I think that I know who is behind this. I guess it could be redhead's intuition, but I'm almost sure it's Arcade, isn't it!?

The Black Panther series is refreshing. Twenty-five issues hasn't been done in many split-books, but eight pages an issue isn't much. I think that twenty-five issues can give us a truly good story, and I'm sure that other Marvelites would be happy to see the second spot in the book always occupied by twenty-five part series', as long as it is a popular character with room for development previously untapped. I'm sure you'll agree that the Panther fits all these qualifications. It takes guts to tackle an anti-Apartheid story. The subject needs to be discussed and also introduced, I feel, to younger readers. Knowledge is the key to the destruction of all evils. Drugs are an example. Marvel has always done a good job of showing the dangers of drugs. They didn't have to, but they did. Truly as heroic as any of Marvel's characters.

Coldblood is exactly the kind of hero MCP was created to showcase. A totally new character, a great plot (what's more exciting than trying to find out who you are!), and interesting opposition. Also, it's a multi-parter, which is what gives a writer a chance to make an actual plot develop.

The Sub-Mariner plot was different. With the Greenpeace movement, backed by so many musicians, people are becoming more aware than ever of the dangers of mistreating our environment. Like Apartheid, a topic worth discussing.

The many diverse features and moods of this book have made the book well worth reading, as opposed to the earlier issues with the Master of Kung-Fu, the boring and often disgusting Man-Thing, and eight-page, one issue features.

Thanks for making this book thoroughly enjoyable!

Terry Roberts
6437 #5003 93rd Terr. N.
Pinellas Park, FL 34666

**Thanks for reading, Terry, and yes, it is Arcade. Boy, that red-head's intuition is uncanny!**

Marvel Readers Present,

Why is it that all the cover artists draw Coldblood's head, hand and gun only? The last two have been that way, and next issue will be the same. How about something different?

The Excalibur story was good only because Captain Britain had to fight his two former selves (and we got to see his last costume! I want it back. Are you listening, Chris and Alan?). But the inclusion of the Loonies blew it. I think I've figured it out though. Arcade must be behind all of this. That means the Loonies are only robots. Well, I'm glad to see that they aren't real flesh and blood. That would be a real tragedy.

The Black Panther was pretty good also But I can't believe that Zanti was shot. I could have sworn that I recently read that in a future issue the Black Panther would be taking him back home. How can he do that if Zanti is dead?

Coldblood, I don't know what to say about that. I didn't like the piece where his perceptions are controlled by Mako. That sort of killed the story in my eyes.

The Sub-Mariner story was decent, but I wish it would have been more than one issue. Had I been the Sub-Mariner, that factory would have no longer been standing. I would have demolished it. That's why I think the story should have been longer. The Sub-Mariner could have destroyed the place.

The message of the Sub-Mariner story was great. The last page was especially striking. The sadness it portrayed was very much evident. In fact, copies of this issue should be sent to Congress. Maybe they'd see what's being done to our environment and do something about it!

Shane Hutchison
P.O. Box 580483
Nassau Bay, TX 77258

**That's not a bad idea, Shane. Maybe if more people are made aware of the problem through different media (like this one), they can even write their Congressmen themselves and start doing something about it (hint)! And in a different vein, Zanti *is* still alive (as you obviously know by now). He's a pretty resilient guy, huh?**

DAUGHTERS OF THE DRAGON
IN MURDER AT THE CIRCUS!
WILL HE FIGHT FOR-- OR AGAINST-- THE ESTABLISHMENT?!
UNION JACK